

House Resolution

No. 55

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

August 22, 2014

House Resolution No. 55—Relative to the 50th anniversary of the signing of the federal Economic Opportunity Act.

1 WHEREAS, August 20, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of
2 the signing of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and
3 it is appropriate at this time to draw special public attention to this
4 significant milestone in the history of our nation's war on poverty;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In his State of the Union Address on January 8,
7 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an “unconditional
8 war on poverty in America,” and working together, the President
9 and Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act, which was
10 signed into law on August 20, 1964; and

11 WHEREAS, Directly regulated by the federal government, the
12 agencies created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 were
13 established with the purpose of strengthening, supplementing, and
14 coordinating efforts in furtherance of that policy; and

15 WHEREAS, Fifty years later, poverty is still a major challenge
16 across the nation, as evidenced by the socioeconomic data
17 presented at the 2013 Southern California Economic Recovery &
18 Job Creation Summit; the data indicated that the southern
19 California region has a much lower than average educational
20 attainment level that, in turn, results in alarmingly low median and
21 average household income levels and extremely high poverty rates,
22 as well as one-in-four children living below the poverty line; and

1 WHEREAS, While our great state and nation have worked to
2 raise people out of poverty and into secure jobs, we still have a
3 long way to go in winning the “unconditional war on poverty in
4 America”; and

5 WHEREAS, To build a stronger and better state and nation, we
6 must continue to help advance the cause of economic justice for
7 all people; now, therefore be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
9 Assembly recognizes August 20, 2014, as the 50th anniversary of
10 the signing of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and
11 honors those who are working to raise awareness of the numerous
12 adults and children in California who are currently living in
13 poverty, working to develop a solution, identifying the needs of
14 low-income communities, and working to ensure the future
15 prosperity for California’s economy and residents; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Assembly urges the federal government and
17 other states to recognize this fight as well, and to continue working
18 for a more prosperous future and increased awareness of the
19 difficulties facing low-income individuals; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
21 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.